

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01759 191143Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

SSO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 DODE-00 /109 W

-----078276 191307Z /72 43

P 191040Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7139

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1759

LONDON AND MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

SUMMARY. SUDANESE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED OVER SITUATION IN ERITREA. THEY CLAIM HAVE FIRM EVIDENCE ETHIOPIANS, AIDED BY SOVIETS, CUBANS AND SOUTH YEMENIS, PREPARING MASSIVE ATTACK AGAINST ERITREA. THEY FEAR THAT WITHOUT STRONG U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORT SOVIETS WILL BY NEXT FALL BE ON THEIR WAY TO YET ANOTHER TRIUMPH IN AFRICA. END SUMMARY

1. IN CONVERSATIONS APRIL 18 AND 19 WITH SENIOR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS IT CLEAR SUDANGOV CONTINUES TO BE QUITE CONCERNED OVER OUTLOOK IN ERITREA. SUDANESE CLAIM TO HAVE GOOD EVIDENCE THAT MASSIVE ETHIOPIAN BUILDUP IS UNDERWAY. THEY BELIEVE THAT CUBANS, SOVIETS AND SOUTH YEMINI FORCES WILL ASSIST EPMG IN MAJOR MILITARY SWEEP ACROSS ERITREA. THE EPMG AND ITS ALLIES REALIZE THAT ERITREAN CAMPAIGN WILL NOT BE EASY, AND WILL BE HAMPERED BY RAINS, MOUNTAINS AND OTHER PROBLEMS, NEVERTHELESS THE BASIC POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AND, ACCORDING MFA UNDERSECRETARY HASHIM OSMAN, AFTER SOME RELUCTANCE CUBANS HAVE DECIDED TO COMMIT FORCES. NEWS ITEM IN APRIL 19 SUNA AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01759 191143Z

COMMENTS BY SUDANESE ARMED FORCES DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR GENERAL ABDEL MAJID HAMID KHALIL INDICATE THAT SUDANESE EXPECT ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE TO AIM INITIALLY TO ISOLATE ELF FORCES IN NORTHWEST ERITREA. ACCORDING SUNA DESPATCH, QUOTING TIGRE LIBERATION FRON SPOKESMAN 5,000 ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS ACCOMPANIED BY SOVIET AND CUBAN ADVISERS HAVE REACHED MAKELI, CAPITAL OF TIGRE REGION TO REINFORCE 25,000 ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS ALREADY

STATIONED IN 7 TOWNS OF THE REGION. ADDITIONALLY CONCENTRATIONS OF ETHIOPIAN TROOPS ARE NOW STATIONED AT HUMERA AND GONDAR. SUNA DESPATCH IS CONSISTENT WITH REMARKS OF GENERAL MAJID WHO PREDICTS THAT OFFENSIVE WILL ATTEMPT TO RECAPTURE MAJOR TOWNS CURRENTLY HELD BY ELF, NAMELY AGORDAT, TESSENAI, BARENTU AND KEREN. GENERAL MAJID SAID ETHIOPIANS ARE ALREADY BOMBING THESE TOWNS PLUS ASMARA.

2. SUDANGOV HAS EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN TO EPMG AND ON APRIL 18 OSMAN PROTESTED TO ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HERE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS WERE IN VIOLATION OF FREETOWN AGREEMENT WHICH CALLED ON EPMG TO NEGOTIATE WITH ERITREANS. DESPITE ITS CONCERN, ACCORDING OSMAN, SUDANGOV DOES NOT RPT DOES NOT EXPECT TO SEE ERITREAN ISSUE RAISED IN U.N.

3. RATHER, SUDANGOV BELIEVES IT ESSENTIAL FOR USG TO TAKE LEAD IN PERSUADING SOVIETS NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ERITREA AND NOT TO SUPPORT ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST ERITREANS. OSMAN ARGUED SOMEWHAT EMOTIONALLY THAT TIME HAS PASSED FOR QUIET DIPLOMACY AND USG FORCEFULLY AND PUBLICLY SHOULD PERSUADE SOVIETS TO DESIST FROM ITS ACTIONS IN ETHIOPIA. HE SAID SOVIETS ARE "UNCHECKED IN AFRICA" AND THAT MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THERE IS SOME FORM OF SUPER POWER COLLABORATION TO DIVIDE REGION INTO SOVIET AND AMERICAN SPHERES OF INFLUENCE. HE SAID "CHINESE VIEW IS RINGING IN THE HEADS OF EVERYBODY."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KHARTO 01759 191143Z

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: SUDANESE CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN ERITREA IS REAL. THEY ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED OVER SPILLOVER OF ANY WAR INTO SUDAN ITSELF AND THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SUDAN'S OWN SECURITY OF ANY WAR IN ERITREA. AS IS CLEAR FROM OSMAN'S REMARKS, THEY THINK U.S. SHOULD PLAY MORE FORCEFUL ROLE BOTH DIPLOMATICALLY AND BY ASSISTING SUDAN DIRECTLY TO DEFEND ITSELF. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PROBLEMS OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN ETHIOPIA WAS DISCUSSED APRIL 13 DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S BRIEF STOP IN KHARTOUM. SECRETARY INDICATED TO FONMIN RASHID AL-TAHIR THAT HE WOULD BE RAISING THIS PROBLEM WITH SOVIETS DURING HIS STOP THIS WEEK IN MOSCOW. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO US IF WE COULD BRIEF SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS ON SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS ON HORN IN MOSCOW. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: KHARTOUM 1759 NOT PASSED HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PROVINCE, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, MILITARY PLANS, NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO01759
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780167-0661
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780441/aaaabihw.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 958d8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2922013
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUDANESE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED OVER SITUATION IN ERITREA
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, MOPS, MPOL, UR, ET, CU, SU, US, (OSMAN, HASHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/958d8bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014